

Torrance, California  
December 12, 1941

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Friday, December 12, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

Councilman Powell moved that Councilman Hitchcock serve as Mayor Pro-Tem in the absence of Mayor McGuire. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock and Powell. Absent: Councilmen: Kail and McGuire.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

Councilman Powell moved that a five minute recess be declared to await arrival of Mayor McGuire. Mayor Pro-Tem Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire arrived at 5:47 P.M. and the meeting reconvened.

Councilman Babcock reported that, in connection with the emergency ordinance pertaining to blackouts which the City of Torrance proposes to adopt, information has been given that the State of California is at this time in the process of passing a law pertaining to blackouts which will be a uniform law throughout the state. It was decided to withhold action on this matter until the State advises what action was taken, which word, according to Chief Stroh, is due immediately.

Councilman Kail arrived at 5:50 P.M.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Chief of Police be given authority to form fire protection squads, the men to serve in this capacity to be selected by the Chief.

Chief Stroh advised that plans have already been formulated and are being carried out toward this end. He advised that Mr. I. J. Hallanger, Deputy City Clerk, is assisting in the organization and planning of this part of the defense effort. He stated that Mr. Hallanger is endeavoring to place Legionnaires throughout the Air Raid Warden service, inasmuch as they have the benefit of experience and know what reactions to expect and how to react themselves in time of emergency. Chief Stroh advised further that a defense training school is scheduled to begin operations Wednesday, December 17, 1941, said school to be conducted in the Civic Auditorium. Persons attending the school will be from surrounding areas, he said.

Chief Stroh advised he had this morning (December 12, 1941) attended the meeting of the County Wide Defense setup. He mentioned names of several persons who had addressed the meeting, some of them being Hal Kennedy, Sheriff Biscailuz, Mr. Ryan, State Agricultural Director, Spencer Turner and John R. Quinn. Chief Stroh advised that a vote had been taken on whether or not a County Wide Defense Program is deemed advisable. He said it had been unanimous that such a program is desired. This arrangement, said Chief Stroh, would make for less confusion in an emergency, inasmuch as all cities in the County will have uniform signals and laws. Warnings will be transmitted from the Sheriff's Office to the Torrance Police Department, advised Chief Stroh, the Sheriff's Office being in contact with the United States Army and receiving instructions from that source. Chief Stroh suggested that every industry begin immediately to black out windows. Industries are requested not to cease operations at the present time, he continued. He said that in cases of grave emergency, then and then only will industries be required to cease operations.

He said it had been decided for rail carriers to travel with blue lights, but that complaints had been received from the railroads that it is impossible to move the large detachments of troops they must move with any degree of safety when required to use blue lights. He advised that emergency vehicles are authorized to travel with full lights. When Councilman Hitchcock inquired which vehicles are designated as emergency vehicles, Chief Stroh advised that any vehicle which has the authorized use of a red light, such as a police car, fire car or truck, water department truck, is classed as emergency vehicle.

Chief Stroh reported that Mr. Ryan, State Agricultural Director, advised that vegetables can be used without fear of germs, as the Agricultural Department has the matter completely under control.

The subject of bomb shelters was discussed during the meeting, reported Chief Stroh.

Chief Stroh advised that industries are requested to place three air raid wardens on duty, one for each shift, in their plants. He said business houses who plan to continue in business are requested to build double doors to their establishments, the first door to open into the vestibule of the building, which can be closed before the other door leading directly into the store is opened, thus confining all the light to the inside of the building. The Retail Grocers' Association had reported that stores will open at 9:30 A.M. and close at 5:00 P.M., said Chief Stroh.

Councilman Powell asked Chief Stroh how the public will be able to recognize those persons delegated to perform certain duties during blackouts. Chief Stroh presented a sample arm band police insignia and quoted prices on them. He said each person will be furnished with one of the arm bands which will immediately identify them to the public.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$50.00 be made for purchase of police insignia arm bands, said bands to be issued by Chief Stroh to persons delegated to perform certain duties during blackouts. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$111.24 be made for "No Parking" and "One-Hour Parking" signs, in accordance with requirements of Ordinance No. 332. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock inquired whether or not the Council should pass a resolution requesting deferment of firemen and policemen. Chief Stroh advised that the Civilian Defense Counsel had gone on record as requesting deferment for firemen, but not of police officers. Chief Stroh advised that the Radio Corporation of America is at this time testing a device which can be heard for a distance of thirty miles, and which, if satisfactory, will be better than sirens for air raid warnings.

Councilman Powell said he thought persons should be discouraged from taking the law into their own hands during blackouts. Chief Stroh said this matter is receiving much stress publicly. He said Sears-Roebuck Company matter is being publicized, it being a case where persons attempted to extinguish lights, which resulted in shattered windows at the establishment. He said a law suit has been started in this matter, which might tend to discourage persons from overhasty action during blackouts. Chief Stroh said the newspapers are warning persons against such actions.

Mayor McGuire suggested that all public meetings, so far as is possible, be held during the daytime, both to do away with light and to conserve electricity for more vital purposes. This suggestion was met with approval.

Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, reported he had met with 27 managers of Water Companies in Los Angeles County, where it had been agreed that portable equipment owned by any and all of the various companies can be called into use, and will be rushed immediately to the scene of disaster during any emergency. He said complete inventory lists will be drawn up in order that each company will have knowledge of the equipment owned by other companies. Also, he said, crews of workers for the various water companies will be

available for immediate dispatch into the damaged areas.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the electrical departments handle their part of the plans in the same manner.

Mr. Jain, City Engineer, reported that great effort has been made since Sunday, December 7, 1941, to secure a portable generator to supply electricity during emergency which might impair power lines. He said such equipment is practically impossible to find. He said two units have been located which can be purchased if the purchase is made immediately before someone else obtains them.

Mr. Butterfield, City Electrician, reported that every small city he has contacted is making frantic efforts to secure a portable electrical unit, but that same are not available. The ones that are in existence, he said, have very rigid priority restrictions attached to them.

Mr. Jain said Mr. Stancil, who had something to do with installing the two-way radio communication system in the City of Torrance, had advised that the purchase of one of the units located be made at once. Mr. Jain said one of the units located has a Ford V-8 motor, at a cost of \$1,350.00. The other one, he said, which will be furnished by the Frazier-Wright Company, has a Chevrolet motor, and is a 25 KVA, 20 Kilowatt unit, which will generate 20,000 watts. This unit, he advised, costs approximately \$1,500.00.

Mr. Stanger advised that some other City had tested one of the units with a Ford V-8 motor, which unit had been found unsatisfactory for steady use.

The consensus of opinion was that the City could not afford to be without the unit.

Mr. Butterfield advised that the Frazier-Wright Company gives an absolute guarantee with their units.

Councilman Babcock read section 874 of the Municipal Corporations Act, which provides that the governing body of a City can, without advertising for bids, make purchases in any amount by resolution during times of great emergency.

Councilman Powell moved that the purchase of a portable electrical unit for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00, plus tax, be made, the resolution to be as follows:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1509

#### RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC GENERATOR.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire announced that Lieutenant Hunt of the California State Guard had requested use of the Municipal Park two nights per week and Sunday mornings for drill purposes for the California State Guard. A question arose about the lighting expense, it being understood that the City of Torrance will bear this expense. Mr. Butterfield, City Electrician, advised that sufficient light can be furnished for approximately \$1.00 per hour.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Lieutenant Hunt of the California State Guard for use of the Municipal Park two nights per week and Sunday mornings for drill purposes for the California State Guard be granted, and that Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, and Mr. Fred Blake, Foreman of the Municipal Park, be notified to this effect. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire expressed the opinion that he felt the City Council should go on record to recognize the American born Japanese people in this vicinity as American citizens and to express to them by resolution of the Council the confidence of the Council in their loyalty to the United States of America, copies of the Resolution to be mailed to the various Japanese-American Associations in this area, and made a motion to this effect. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the schools to be read to the students,

It was further suggested that the City of Gardena be informed of the action taken by the City Council of Torrance.

A communication was read from the Southern California Gas Company, requesting the Council to release the Southern California Gas Company from its obligation, under existing ordinances, of maintaining red lanterns at night around its street excavations when ordered so to do by any commanding officer of the United States Army, Navy, Air Corps, Marine Corps, or any other military branch of the United States Government, or by any State, county, city or other municipal representative.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Southern California Gas Company be notified that the City Council will not enforce that portion of Section 6 of Ordinance No. 28 of the City of Torrance pertaining to posting of lights along excavations during the war emergency when said Gas Company is ordered by the above mentioned agencies to act contrary to said ordinance provisions. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock suggested that the Police Department should be informed of locations of excavations at all times.

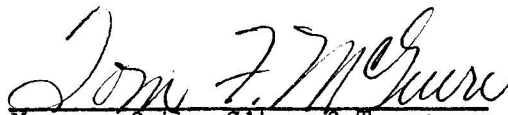
Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full a Resolution of Condolence, expressing sympathy to the bereaved family of Albert F. Monroe, Justice of the Peace of the Inglewood Judicial Township, deceased.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Resolution of Condolence be adopted. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that all City Employees be notified that they are subject to call twenty-four hours per day; that any employee desiring to leave the City should report same to his department head, advising the department head of length of time he expects to be absent from the City and endeavoring to give an address or telephone number where he can be contacted immediately his services are in demand for emergency work, notices to this effect to be posted in all departments. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance